Nuclear Tipped Missiles of Pakistan

4172. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD :

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to **a** newsitem published in the Hindustan Times dated 17th March, 2000 captioned "Pak readies N-tip"ed missiles" accordingly to Public Eye Project of the Federation of American Scientists which released satellite images of Islamabad's Nuclear and Missile facilities on internet on 15th March, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan loaded Nuclear armed M-l1 Missiles on trucks in Sargodha and dispersed them around the country; and

(c) if so, what safety/preventive measures taken by Government till date in this regard particularly by ISRO scientists ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has seen the news report, which is based on the publication of satellite photographs on the Internet by the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) a non-governmental Organisation based in the USA The photographs, showing Pakistan's special weapons facilities at Kushab and the missile base at Sargodha, were released as part of the FAS's Public Eye project.

(c) Government closely monitors all developments related to Pakistan's unclear and missile capabilities, including the deployment of nuclear weapons and the means of their delivery. Government remains fully committed **to** taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interest in accordance with its own assessment of threats to our security.

Sending Children abroad on the basis of Fake Passports

† 4173. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the business of sending children abroad on the basis of fake passports is being going on very expeditiously in the country;

(b) if so, whether some people have recently been arrested at Indira Gandhi International Airport while doing so; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.